

- 1 - Read first and try to understand without looking at the vocabulary list.
- 2 - Then read again helping you with the given translations and with your dictionary if necessary.
- 3 - Read once again 2 or 3 times.
- 4 - Only then do the following exercises

Why are bees important?

You might think that honey bees are important because they make honey – but that is not the only reason they **matter** so much in the agricultural world.

The most important thing they do is pollinate plants.

Countless crops, including cotton, lemons, nuts and even **cauliflower**, etc., are pollinated by the **humble** honey bee.

Without such pollination the modern agricultural industry would be nothing.

Some plants **rely on** the wind for pollination and would continue to grow.

But without the honey bee, pollination of things like strawberries, oranges, tomatoes, etc. would have **to be carried out** by some other means.

In parts of China where insecticides have killed off the honey bee entirely, pollination is effected by hand. This, of course, is slow, labour-intensive and costly.

What will happen if bees become extinct?

Bees are **currently** not on the endangered species list – there is some way to go before their population falls that low.

However, the number of bee colonies in America for example has fallen from nearly 6 million 60 years ago, to approximately 2.5 million today.

It has been said that "If bees disappeared completely, man would only be able to survive for another four years." Scientists hope that he was exaggerating.

Vocabulary :

To matter : it doesn't matter : Cela m'a pas d'importance

Countless : innombrable

Cauliflower : chou

Humble : humble

To rely on : reposer sur, dépendre de

To be carried out : être effectué, réalisé, exécuté

Currently : actuellement

Now go to the next page for 2 exercises

Try not to look at the text.

Fill in the gaps with the right words :

1- effected - 2-costly - 3-insecticides - 4-pollinate - 5- including cotton - 6-rely on - 7-honey bee
- 8-to be carried out - 9-disappeared - 10- matter - 11-modern agricultural industry - 12-honey -
13-endangered species list -

You might think that honey bees are important because they make ----- but that is not the only reason they----- so much in the agricultural world.

The most important thing they do -----is plants.

Countless crops,-----, lemons, nuts and even cauliflower, etc., are pollinated by the humble honey bee.

Without such pollination the -----would be nothing.

Some plants -----the wind for pollination and would continue to grow.

But without the -----, pollination of things like strawberries, oranges, tomatoes, etc. would have -----by some other means.

In parts of China where ----- have killed off the honey bee entirely, pollination is ----- by hand. This, of course, is slow, labour-intensive and -----.

Bees are currently not on the ----- there is some way to go before their population falls that low.

However, the number of bee colonies in America for example has fallen from nearly 6 million 60 years ago, to approximately 2.5 million today.

Albert Einstein once said that "If bees ----- completely, man would only be able to survive for another four years." Scientists hope that he was exaggerating.

Write full sentences answering to the following questions :

1 – Why do you think that bees are disappearing ?

2 – What are the ways plants are pollinated ?

3 – What is an alternative to bee pollination ?

4 – What do scientists think ?

5 - Can you think of anything to reduce bee disappearance ?